

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-74 are pending, of which Claims 1, 23, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 56, 59, 60 and 62 are independent. All claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 1, 23, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 56 and 59 are amended and new Claims 62-74 are added to the application by the present amendment. With the entry of the present amendment, all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 23, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 56 and 59 are amended to include a limitation related to “scanning for” or “detecting” changes in the supply related data at the supply chain sites. Similar limitations are recited in Claims 4, 45 and 60. Thus, no new matter is introduced. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

New Claims 62-74 are added to the application. Support for this amendment can be found in the application, for example, at least in the Specification at Figures 1A, 1E, 3A-8, 11A-12, the Abstract, and pg. 2, ll. 18-pg. 5, ll. 19, and in the Claims as originally filed, at least at Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10-14, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27-31, 33, 34, and 38-43. Thus, no new matter is introduced. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that new Claims 62-74 are copied from U.S. Patent No. 6,668,254 (“the ‘254 Patent’”) issued on December 23, 2003 to Ken Matson, Brian Clapper, Matt Dymek, Tom Hjellming, Bob Moyer, and Steve Stevens for METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR IMPORTING DATA. The ‘254 Patent was filed on December 21, 2000. Fulltilt Solutions, Inc. is the assignee named on the face of the patent.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Huang (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,707) in view of Muraoka (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,725). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Preferred embodiments facilitate the exchange of up-to-date supply-related information among independent entities in a supply chain. These independent entities may be, for example, contract manufacturers, vendors, OEMs, and distributors. Each entity has a corresponding supply chain site, which may be a web-based site. Preferably, a web-based portal is provided that allows all of these independent entities to share up-to-date supply related data, while also providing them with protection from unauthorized disclosure of their proprietary information to entities in the supply chain. Supply-related data, which may be proprietary, is monitored and changes in the supply-related data are detected by comparing the supply related data with data previously received. If new or changed data is detected, the data is checked to ensure that there are no problems associated with it. The data is extracted from an entity's supply chain site and uploaded to a data collection site. The data is formatted into a common format, such as XML, and processed into categories (filters). The data is then analyzed and compared with previously received data and other data in the supply chain. If any surpluses or shortages are detected in the data, alerts are generated.

Independent Claims 1, 23, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 56, 59, 60 and 62 generally relate to monitoring supply-related (e.g. product) information. The supply related information can be monitored for any changes or new data by, for example, comparing it with data previously received. The new or changed data can be processed into a common format. The changed data can be analyzed and if there are any surpluses or shortages detected, an alert can be generated.

By way of contrast, neither Huang or Muraoka discuss the limitations of the invention, namely, a system that monitors supply chain data, for example, to detect changed or new data. Furthermore, Huang or Muraoka do not relate to a system that translates the data into a common format and processes the data to generate alerts.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1, 23, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 56, 59, and 60 and their respective dependent Claims under § 103 based on Huang and Muraoka is respectfully requested. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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